

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 PANAMA 01406 161902 Z

71

ACTION IO-13

INFO OCT-01 ARA-11 ADP-00 AF-10 EA-11 EUR-25 NEA-10 RSC-01

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-09 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10

PA-03 PRS-01 SS-14 USIA-12 EB-11 RSR-01 /157 W

----- 075309

R 161822 Z MAR 73

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6831

INFO USUN NEW YORK 270

GOV PANCANAL

USCINCSO

C O N F I D E N T I A L PANAMA 1406

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UN, PN

SUBJ: TORRIJOS' UN SPEECH

REF: PANAMA 1355

FROM US DELEGATION

SUMMARY: TORRIJOS' SPEECH WAS COLLECTION OF MOST HARD-HITTING EXPRESSIONS HE HAD USED IN THE PAST. HIS ACCUSATIONS IN THIS FORUM CONCERNING THE "SHAME" OF THE CUBAN BLOCKADE DETRACTED FROM HIS INTENDED FOCUS ON THE PANAMA CANAL, BUT WERE NECESSARY PART OF TRADE FOR CUBAN SUPPORT. END SUMMARY

1. THE HARSHNESS OF TORRIJOS' OPENING SPEECH TO THE UNSC MARCH 15 DERIVES FROM THE CONCENTRATION IN A SINGLE ADDRESS OF POINTS WHICH TORRIJOS HAS BEEN MAKING SINCE ASSUMING POWER. ITS CONTENT REVEALS ADVANCE COORDINATION WITH CUBA AND PERU RESULTING IN THE PARALLEL COURSES OF EACH OF THE 3 ADDRESSES.

2. THE GENERAL' S REMARKS ON CUBA WERE CONSISTENT WITH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 PANAMA 01406 161902 Z

THE VARIOUS SIGNALS EMBASSY PANAMA IS GETTING THAT PANAMA AND CUBA ARE MOVING TOWARD RESUMPTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. TORRIJOS WAS PARTICULARLY EMPHATIC ON THE CUBAN QUESTION TO THE POINT OF DISTRACTING FROM HIS MAIN INTEREST IN THE CANAL. TORRIJOS SHARPLY EXPRESSED HIS SUPPORT FOR CUBA WITH THE WORDS: " EVERY HOUR OF ISOLATION WHICH THE BROTHER CUBAN PEOPLE SUFFER CONSTITUTES SIXTY MINUTES OF SHAME FOR THE HEMISPHERE". HIS ATTACK ON THE CUBAN BLOCKADE IS NOT NEW. HE USED IN AN OCTOBER 1972 LOCAL TELEVISION INTERVIEW THE WORDS " EVERY HOUR OF BLOCKADE THAT THOSE 8 MILLION (CUBANS) HAVE TO PUT UP WITH IS 60 MINUTES OF SHAME THAT THEY ENDURE". THE SPEECH' S RE- FORMULATION OF THAT QUOTATION WAS, WE BELIEVE, PART OF A TRADE- OFF FOR CUBAN SUPPORT.

3. THE GREATER PART OF TORRIJOS' ADDRESS WAS AN EX- POSITION OF THE CANAL PROBLEM AND WAS ALONG TRADITIONAL LINES. HIS ADDED EMPHASIS ON THE SUPPOSED THREAT TO INTERNATIONAL SECURITY PRESENTED BY THE CANAL SITUATION IS UNDERSTANDABLE IN VIEW OF THE GOP' S HAVING USED IT AS JUSTIFICATION FOR BRINGING THE MEETING TO PANAMA. HIS ATTEMPT TO ESTABLISH SOLIDARITY WITH AFRICA IS LIKEWISE UNDERSTANDABLE IN LIGHT OF THE FORUM FOR HIS ADDRESS. TORRIJOS SPOKE OF THE NATIONAL- IZATION OF CHILEAN COPPER AND PERUVIAN OIL. ROA PICKED UP THE CADENCE OF THIS THEME BY CALLING FOR THE NATIONALIZATION OF THE PANAMA CANAL. SAYRE

CONFIDENTIAL

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** CONFIDENTIAL

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts:
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 16 MAR 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: garlanwa
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973PANAMA01406
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GDS
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730332/aaaahzpw.tel
Line Count: 97
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 73 PANAMA 1355
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: garlanwa
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 OCT 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03-Oct-2001 by smithrj>; APPROVED <06-Dec-2001 by garlanwa>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CORRECTED> jms 971215
Subject: TORRIJOS' UN SPEECH
TAGS: PFOR, PN, UN
To: GOV PANCANAL
IO
SECSTATE WASHDC
USCINCSO
USUN NEW YORK
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005

